

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Daphne Kwok 202-223-5500
January 26, 2000**

SECRETARY OF ENERGY MEETS WITH OCA NATIONAL BOARD

Washington, D.C. - Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson met with the Organization of Chinese Americans' (OCA) National Board on Saturday, January 22 in Washington, D.C. Secretary Richardson, the first Cabinet Secretary to meet with the OCA National Board, spent one hour with the representatives from OCA chapters throughout the country expressing his deep concern for the impact that the Asian Pacific American employees at the National Laboratories are experiencing as a result of the Wen Ho Lee case. Repeatedly, Secretary Richardson reiterated his zero tolerance policy for racial profiling. Also present at the meeting were U.S. Commissioner of Civil Rights Yvonne Lee, newly appointed Department of Energy National Ombudsman Jeremy Wu and Daphne Kwok, Member of the Secretary of Energy's Advisory Board.

OCA National President George M. Ong stated, "The OCA National Board appreciates the frankness and concern that Secretary Richardson expressed during his conversation with us. We asked the hard questions that have been on the minds of Chinese Americans and Asian Pacific Americans all over the country, and Secretary Richardson did not shy away from answering them. We would encourage the Secretary to have more forums with the community to inform them just like he did with the OCA National Board."

OCA Vice President of Public Affairs Victor Hsi commented, "The Secretary emphasized several major points from the Final Report from the Task Force Against Racial Profiling including the stand down that the Department of Energy (DOE) will have nationwide addressing EEO and diversity issues which raises these issues to the same level as the security stand down that occurred several months ago. He also stated that the DOE contractors will be assessed for their diversity commitment. OCA believes that these points are critical to changing the system, that should be implemented not only at DOE but across the public and private sector."

Organization of Chinese Americans
1001 Connecticut Ave., NW #601
Washington, DC 20036
tel:202-223-5500 fax:202-296-0540
E-mail: oca@ocanatl.org
Web: <http://www.ocanatl.org>

This page was last updated on 01/26/00